

# News-Line

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*Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter  
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania Winter (Jan-Feb) 2022*

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## **Lincoln Park says Farewell to Beverly**

From Earl Hope, Staff Parish Relations Committee Chair

With heavy hearts, the Staff Parish Relations Committee has announced that our Director of Music and of Children's Ministries, **Beverly Perella**, has made the "difficult decision" to leave her position at Lincoln Park, as of December 31, 2021. She was not actively seeking another position but was contacted by parishioners at St Benedict's Roman Catholic Church. After thoughtful consideration and prayer, she felt God calling her to serve another church family.

We're deeply saddened to see Bev leaving after a 16-year ministry here, and we're immeasurably grateful for all she's given us in Christ's service. She has left a legacy of excellence and has prepared



those around her to carry on at that same high level. She has also left us many wonderful memories...cantatas, summer youth musicals, VBS, mini-concerts, innumerable children's programs,

and even our inaugural Halloween trunk-or-treat which she spear-headed.

The truth is that **Beverly Perella** is much more than a Music Director... she is, and always will be, a teacher. Perhaps her lesson to us now is that when you hear God calling you in a new direction, you are wise to listen carefully.

Bev, you may no longer be our Music Director, but you will always be part of our Lincoln Park family.

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## **Safety Concerns for In-Person Worship**

From **Richard Bashore** and **Richard Auman**, Co-Chairs

At a **Reopening Committee** meeting on Tuesday, January 4, we agreed that due to the increase in COVID cases, we need to take

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**at Lincoln Park Church  
In Person, Currently at 9 & 11**

*Worship times are subject to change right now; members will be notified should that occur.*

**Sunday Services Continue Virtually, via Live Streaming on Facebook**

We thank all our participants. If you're willing to help, by recording your part and emailing it, please call Pastor Kurien, 570-573-1455.

To view Sunday worship services, click on this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/lpcumc/>

The service livestream begins at 9 & 11 am (EDT) and appears at the top of the "Posts" listings, just below the picture of the altar area of our sanctuary.

You can make the livestream a "full screen" view by using the "click to enlarge" icon in the lower right corner.

**Please submit your prayer requests** by clicking on *Prayer Request* tab at the top of the LPCUMC home page, or by using this link and filling in the *Prayer Request* fields: <https://www.lpcumc.org/prayer-request/>

You may receive a "pop-up," asking you to log in or create a new Facebook account. **You don't have to create a Facebook account, so click "Not Now."**

**LET'S SHARE THESE OPPORTUNITIES WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY.**

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*(Continued from page 1) Safety Concerns*

steps to mitigate the spread of the virus and reduce the exposure of our members who choose to attend church. The following guidelines were developed:

- Starting Sunday, January 9, church windows will be opened slightly to allow fresh air ventilation, and the fan will circulate air, so the church may not be as warm as it usually is. Attendees may want to dress warmer than they usually do.
- The outdoor sign will reflect that **masks are now required**; ushers will have them available at the door for those without masks.
- We also suggest that anyone not vaccinated should seriously consider attending the virtual service rather than physically attending church.
- Singing will be reduced, and people will be asked to sing to themselves when hymns are played.
- And, as we've done previously, social distancing will be followed with regard to seating in the church.

Questions or concerns can be addressed to **Pastor Chris, Mark Villecco, Earl Hope, Kris Gilham, Jim Gehman, Geoff Whitely, Jerry Manhart, Rich Bashore, or Rich Auman**

# Introducing our Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Office Bearers and Committee Members for 2022

## STAFF

Pastor  
Music Director & Organist  
Office Administrator  
Accounting  
Custodian

The Rev Dr Christopher J. Kurien  
(To be filled)  
Beth Caswell  
Marilyn Seiders  
Carl Madeira



## CHURCH COUNCIL

Chair  
Vice-Chair  
Secretary  
Lay Leader  
Associate Lay Leader  
Lay Member to Annual Conference  
Alternate Lay Member to Conference  
Trustee Chair and Vice Chair  
Finance Chair  
Treasurer  
Financial Secretaries  
Nurture Chair  
Missions Committee Chair  
Nominations &  
Leadership Development Vice Chair  
Worship Committee Chair  
Staff Parish Relations Chair  
Christian Education Chair  
Endowment Chair  
Historian  
Membership Secretary and  
Native American Ministries Representative  
Newsletter Editor

Geoffrey Whiteley  
Jack Villecco  
Kris Wright  
Jim Gehman  
Kris Gilham  
Jerry Manhart  
Jack Villecco  
Rich Bashore & George Weikel  
Jerry Manhart  
Cindy Kercher  
Richard & Carol Bashore  
Barb Leas  
Carol Bashore  
  
Roe Gehman  
Mark Villecco  
Earl Hope  
Pam Light  
Rich Auman  
Carl Madeira

STAFF: Christopher J. Kurien (Pastor), Mark Villecco (Worship Leader), Director of Music (To be filled), Lindsey Villecco (Youth Leader)

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE Ron Schucker '22, Harry Garrity '22

## From Pastor Christopher Kurien

Dear Friends,

I wish you all a Happy New Year! What a year 2021 has been! We made it through the second year of the pandemic. Many of us faced challenges in one way or other, but we all have learned to adapt. And, we kept pressing forward. More than ever, I feel our faith matters. We do not face storms alone because our God journeys with us.

Children of God have faced challenges throughout history. The biblical stories remind us of that. It's important to know that we are not alone. We learn from our past experiences and have them guide us through the new year.

With the arrival of a new year, we are open to new possibilities and new challenges. What will 2022 bring? We don't know that because we've not yet travelled through the new year, but we believe in a God who is fully aware of our future. God is faithful. When we lean in, trust, and surrender our lives, God will guide us. That's who God is. That's what faith is all about! We hold on to God's promise, follow God's vision, and walk by faith.



For I know  
the plans I have  
for you,  
declares the LORD,  
plans for welfare  
and not for evil,  
to give you a future  
and a hope.

Jeremiah 29:11

After Moses freed God's people from their torturous slavery in Egypt, they faced the problems of wilderness. Stuck in an endless, barren area, they asked "Are we there yet?" It took them 40 years to make it through. They often recalled the old days in Egypt and wished they were back there. They were starving and running out of water in the desert. But God was faithful and came through, sustaining them by providing manna, quails, and water.

The vision of God's promised land had kept them going, along with their faith, trusting that God was with them, guiding and providing for them.

Some of us have lost family and friends during the past 22 months. It's been hard, and now we simply seek God's grace to continue our journey. We look forward to seeing how the coming year will unfold for us. We all wish to emerge from this pandemic sooner rather than later. However, let us be patient.

Jeremiah 29:11 says, "I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you, not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." It is this promise that

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sustains us through the trying times and makes us strong enough to go forward with confidence.

Covid-19 will not overcome us because God has overcome all that threatens to destroy us. While we believe in God's promises and protection, we also need to follow the mandates and guidelines offered to us by those who are involved in scientific research.

May this new year be a year of blessings; a year of faith in the midst of challenges; a year of love in and through the storms.

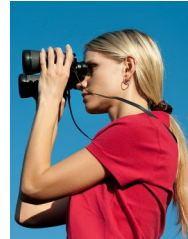
Peace and Blessings,  
Pastor Chris

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## **Missing the Big Apple?**

As a contributor to the development and opening of the *Top of the Rock* in 2004, **Darwin Stapleton** has several complimentary tickets to this 360 degree observation deck at the top of Rockefeller Center in Manhattan. (See [www.Rockefellercenter.com](http://www.Rockefellercenter.com)).

He'll happily mail two to four tickets to anyone who donates \$20-\$30 per ticket to Lincoln Park UM Church Mission Fund or Pastor's Discretionary Fund. (Tickets normally sell for \$30-\$40 and expire on May 31, 2022.) Please call Darwin, 914-329-6290, or email him at: [dawin.stapleton@yahoo.com](mailto:dawin.stapleton@yahoo.com), if you'd like to have the tickets and support the church in this way.



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## *From Carl Madeira*

**MISSING:** Six red Bibles from the sanctuary dedicated to **Norman Dettra**  
Please return to the sanctuary when found.

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## *From Carol Bashore, Missions Chair*

Thank you all for your gifts for our Angel Tree project again this year. We were able to fulfill our family's wish list as well as giving them several gift cards to purchase additional items.

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### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Linda Mann (Secretary) Barry Goodolf, Harry Garrity, Sandi Rosencrans, Bill Lape, George Weikel (Vice-Chair) Richard Bashore (Chair) Jim Gehman, Dave Gehr

*Ex Officio:* Pastor, Lay Leader, Lay Member to Annual Conference

\*Kitchen team: Dave & Cindy Kercher, Alan Koeble, Jen Born

### **FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP**

Jerry Manhart, Chair; Cindy Kercher, Treasurer; Rich & Carol Bashore, Finance Secretaries; Geoff Whiteley, Jack Villecco

### **ENDOWMENT FUND**

Rich Auman, Chair; Beth Auman, Secretary; Dan Christopher, Treasurer; Richard Larsen, Don Schlosser, Jim Gehman, Jerry Manhart

### **NOMINATIONS & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

Roe Gehman, Vice Chair; Mark Villecco, Lou Manhart, Linda Hope, Karen McFeaters, Nancy Goodolf, KC Diana, Beth Auman

### **STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS**

Earl Hope, Chair; Ed Fallon, Rich Auman, Sandi Rosencrans, Kweku Addae-Mensah, Curt Glass, Michele Bausher, Ann Heller

### **NURTURE**

Barb Leas, Chair; Gretchen Garrity, Darwin & Donna Stapleton, Linda Woll, Pat Owens, Mike & Jackie Kauffman, Krista Gilham, Nancy Madeira

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Pam Light, Chair; Barbara Leas, Lindsey Villecco, KC Dianna, Victoria Whiteley, Krista Gilham, Linda Woll

### **MISSIONS**

Carol Bashore, Chair; Diane Fisher, Cheri Fallon, Dave Kercher, Margaret Welliver, Victoria Whiteley, Jim Eckert, Deb Gehr, Barbara Olawee

### **WORSHIP**

Mark Villecco, Chair; Jean Weikel, KC Dianna, Dorinne Bilger, Kris Wright, Margaret Welliver, Karen McFeaters, Sarah George, Lindsey Villecco, Deb Gehr

*Ex Officio:* Pastor, Director of Music, Lay Leader, Custodian, Ushers, Jack Villecco, Beth Caswell, Harry Garrity, Nancy Villecco, Beverly Ruffner, Pat Owens, George Weikel, Nancy Madeira, Cindy Kercher

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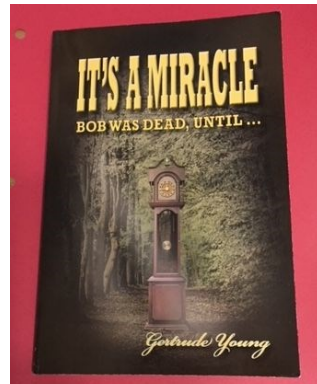
# Gert Young Has Written a Book

From Cheri Fallon



**Gertrude Young** has had a story to tell for a while. For many years she kept a diary; at 93, she's put it all together in *It's a Miracle*. With her daughter Bobbi's help, her book has been published.

Gert says *Because of my faith, I witnessed many miracles. We (she and husband Bob) both went to Heaven. God walked by our side. Do you believe in Miracles?*



A signed copy for members and friends should soon be available at a cost of only \$8. We'll let you in on the details. It can also be purchased through Barnes & Noble or Amazon.

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## AUDIOVISUAL

Mark Villecco, Kris Gilham, Dennis Antunes, Nick Guercia, Jerry Manhart, Jack Villecco, Rich Auman, Geoff Whiteley, Kevin Villecco

## ADULT MINISTRIES

Carl Madeira, Michele Bausher, Darwin & Donna Stapleton, Sandi Rosencrans, Margaret Welliver, Ann Heller

**AUDIT TEAM** David Geht, Rachel Duda

## CHURCH & SOCIETY

Sandi Rosencrans, Jim Eckert, Harry Garrity, Darwin & Donna Stapleton

**YOUTH COUNCIL** To be decided after elections

## ARCHIVES & HISTORY

Carl Madeira, Jack Villecco, Cheri Fallon, Darwin and Donna Stapleton





From **Jim Gehman**

What's new for **Neko Mulally**... as he pursues his mountain bike career? Neko, son of **Carolyn Mulally** and grandson of **Roe** and **Jim Gehman**, is at age 28 entering his 11<sup>th</sup> year as an Elite-Pro downhill mountain bike racer. In addition to racing the International Pro Circuit, Neko has expanded his love of downhill mountain biking to include developing bike parks and sponsoring a SouthEast Downhill Mountain Bike Race series.

2022 finds Neko expanding his bike career and interests even more.: He is designing and constructing his own downhill bike. At this time he is having two proto type bikes built for him from his designs. He'll have a final design built and ready for the upcoming 2022 pro season.

His race schedule starts in March in Lourdes, France, and ends in September in Val-di-Sole, Italy. The pro race series covers eight countries. In addition to racing, building, and sponsoring, Neko is organizing his own race team and expects to have his "team," with sponsors, ready for race season.

**Logan**, Neko's brother, is the team's videographer and Neko's "go-to" guy for whatever needs attention. **Carolyn** is always there for the Southeast Race Series to help with all that needs to be done. It's a true "family affair." Follow Neko on "YouTube" to see his latest videos — filmed and produced by **Logan**.



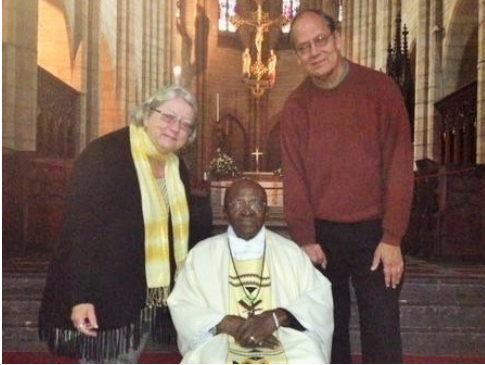
From **Carol and Rich Bashore**

**Nancy Dettra** sends her love to everyone back home. She's doing well, and her housing facility is very nice. Her girls gave her a wonderful 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration and gift — a 4-day oceanfront beach house rental trip, including her kids, grands, and great grandchildren. She shared so many pictures and stories. She's hoping to be able to fly home for a spring visit to PA, where Albright College is giving her a special recognition. She's made some new friends but still misses both her Phoebe friends and her church family very much.



From Cheri Fallon, Editor

With the recent passing of **Archbishop Desmond Tutu**, **Donna** and **Darwin Stapleton** were reminded of seeing and worshipping with him in 2016. *I don't know if it was the Holy Spirit or serendipity*, says Donna. Darwin adds, *Let's say, "We seized the opportunity."* Both agree that all things worked (miraculously?) together to see them to this *awesome* meeting.



Although they had moved to Pennsylvania, some members of their Cleveland church (one of whom was from South Africa) invited them on a group trip there in 2016. The Stapletons, who gleefully accepted the invitation, went ahead of the group for a few days on their own in Cape Town.

While Donna was browsing through books of Tutu's in a thrift shop, a woman approached her and asked, *Would you like to meet Desmond?* She explained that the Archbishop would be doing Matins (morning worship) in his church down the street and arranged for them to be included!

When they arrived the next morning at 7 am, they were seated in a big square, set up near the altar, with 40-50 other worshippers. Archbishop Tutu asked them all to give their names and countries of origin. *They were people from all over the world*, says Donna. *We passed the peace and were invited to walk around and talk to each other. He wanted to know who we are. He wanted us to relate to each other.* They received Communion from Tutu himself, *He dipped the wafer and put it on our tongues*, she says. When the service was over, he signed books for person after person carefully, making sure of the spelling of names.

Darwin says he and Donna originally met as social workers in Philadelphia many years ago and were committed to social justice. He'd always admired Tutu for his devotion to non-violence, gentleness, and pacifism. To meet Desmond Tutu, in his cloak of gentleness and humility, Darwin says *was a moving experience*.

Darwin's favorite quote from **Archbishop Desmond Tutu**:

*"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."*

## Audrey Ann Graduates Again!

Congratulations to **Audrey Ann Blakely**, daughter of **Pam** and **Tom**, on receiving her Masters Degree from Virginia Tech in Information Technology and Graduate Certificates in Software Development and Health Information Technology.

She lives in Orlando with “a very smart and sweet rescue dog named Scout.” Audrey Ann is a Software Engineer at Mend, a software company dealing with telehealth. A 2017 Pitt grad, Audrey Ann played professional tennis for two years before being sidelined with an injury. These days she’s happy in Florida

with her “pandemic dog” and her boyfriend who goes to medical school there. *There were clear signs from God, Audrey Ann says, about where I was supposed to be.*”



## *We extend our deepest sympathy...*

† to family and friends of **Jim Garraway**, 83, who died on December 10... to his son **James** and wife **Deborah**, grandsons **Michael** and **Mark**, and great-grandson **Nolan**. **Jim** and his wife, **Betty**, who died in 2021, were married 61 years and were active members at Lincoln Park—in the choirs, as Financial Secretaries, and more.



† to **Linda Lee** and her sons, **Andrew** and **Josh**, on the loss of her mother, **Elsie Lange**, on November 23.

† to family and friends of **Janet Ferree**, 87, who passed away on December 23. Janet and her husband had five children and 9 grandchildren. Two of the five are members here at LP with their children: **Sally** and **Robert Lamm**, **William** and **Nathan**; and **Rebecca** and **Chad Chelius**, **Gabriel** and **Claire**. A Memorial Service is planned for January 22, 3 pm, at LP Church. Jan, a teacher and librarian who enjoyed Bible Studies, worked wonders in our Church Library, making it a peaceful, resourceful place for meetings and for readers of all ages.

† to **Andy** and **Diane Boyd** on the loss of **Andy's** father **Rudyard Boyd**, 83, on December 10.

† to **Krista** and **Kris**, **Alexa**, and **Hannah Gilham**, on the recent loss of Krista's grandfather.

† to family and friends **Aletha Stehman**, 96, who died on December 19. She attended church here at Lincoln Park for many years with her companion **Robert Miller**.



# Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



*February 15  
for our  
March—  
April issue*

*News-Linc*, bi-monthly publication of Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church, hopes to link you to your church with information about its programs, plans, and people. Your comments and suggestions are welcome and may be left in the newsletter mailbox by the Church Office.

Our staff-

Editor: Cheri Fallon, 610-678-8735

Staff: Nancy Artz, Bunny Carlson, Ed Fallon, Diane Fisher, Mark & Jack Villecco

## Change of Address

Beth Krick  
310 Wernersville Blvd  
Wernersville PA 19565

Oops: A change of address was mistakenly included in our last issue for **Bernadine Mitchell**, who died in earlier in 2021.



A sincere thank you as we enter 2022.



First, I'd like to thank members of Lincoln Park for giving me the honor of serving, first as Lay Leader, and then as Chair of Church Council, over the last several years. And, thank you to everyone for the wishes of sympathy to myself and family on the death of my Mom.

**Linda Lee**

Then come the  
wild  
weather,  
come  
sleet or  
come snow, We  
will stand by each  
other however  
it blow.

—Simon Dach



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

to **Nancy Dettra** who  
celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup>  
birthday on December 7.



## Births

Congratulations to **Bob Robertson** on the arrival of his 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> (twin) great-grandchildren!! Hooray for Bob and his entire family!



# NEWS-LINC

Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church  
1 Carlisle Avenue  
Reading, PA 19609

**Non-Profit Organization**

U.S. Postage

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Reading, PA

Permit No. 233

*Change service requested*

Worship with us: In-Person at **9 & 11 AM CURRENTLY** (Subject to change)  
**WORSHIP IS LIVESTREAMED AT BOTH SERVICES** (See pg 2)

Pastor: The Rev Dr Christopher Kurien, 570-573-1455

Contemporary Program Coordinator: Mark Villecco

Youth Ministry Coordinator: Lindsey Villecco Guercia

Office Administrator: Elizabeth Caswell

Accounting and Finance: Marilyn Seiders

Nursery: Kathi Ernst

Custodian: Carl Madeira

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For urgent messages, use voicemail, please.

